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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/522,185 | 08/26/2005 | David William Sheel | 264240US2PCT | 3653 |
| 22850 | 7590 | 12/12/2007 | | |
| OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. | | | EXAMINER | |
| 1940 DUKE STREET | | | CHEN, BRET P | |
| ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314 | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 1792 | |
| | | | NOTIFICATION DATE | DELIVERY MODE |
| | | | 12/12/2007 | ELECTRONIC |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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| | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 10/522,185 | SHEEL ET AL. |
| | Examiner | Art Unit |
| | B. Chen | 1792 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 September 2007.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 25-48 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) 46-48 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 25-45 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 25-48 are pending in this application. Amended claims 25-30, 32-37, 39-45 are noted.

The amendment dated 9/24/07 has been entered and carefully considered. The examiner appreciates the amendments to the specification and claims. In view of said amendments, the objection to the specification and the 112 rejection have been withdrawn.

Claims 46-48 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a nonelected invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 25-29, 32-36, 39-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rzad (5,156,882) in view of Barnes et al. (2005/0098115) for the reasons listed in the previous office action.

Claims 30-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rzad (5,156,882) in view of Barnes et al. (2005/0098115) and further in view of Horiike et al. (5,185,132) for the reasons listed in the previous office action.

Claims 37-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rzad (5,156,882) in view of Barnes et al. (2005/0098115) and further in view of David (6,197,120) for the reasons listed in the previous office action.

Claim 45 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rzad (5,156,882) in view of Takano (6,828,235) for the reasons listed in the previous office action.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 9/24/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that the process of Rzad must be done in vacuum and not at the claimed atmospheric pressure (pp.10-11) and would not look to Barnes, which teaches the use of atmospheric pressure, to arrive at the claimed invention (p.12 lines 12-14).

The examiner disagrees. It is noted that Rzad teaches a plasma process at low pressures (col.6 lines 31-36). There is nothing in Rzad showing the process to be inoperable at atmospheric pressures. Hence, one skilled in the art would know the advantages and disadvantages associated with the use of a vacuum and low processing temperatures and decide which parameters are desired. For example, at lower pressures, one can obtain a film with reduced contamination but with reduced throughput. Similarly, at lower processing temperatures, one can obtain reduced thermal budgets with thermally sensitive substrates but again with reduced throughput. Given these factors, the skilled artisan would know that using a plasma at both lower pressures and lower processing temperatures creates a very inefficient and costly process but can obtain the advantages of reduced contamination for thermally sensitive substrates. It is the examiner's position that since Rzad is directed to plastic substrates, which are temperature sensitive, one skilled in the art would realize that higher pressures could neutralize the reduced throughput from the lower processing temperatures.

Applicant's arguments have been considered but are not deemed persuasive.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to B. Chen whose telephone number is (571) 272-1417. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30am - 4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy Meeks can be reached on (571) 272-1423. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Bc
12/7/07


Bret Chen
PRIMARY EXAMINER